

REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action mailed June 19, 2008, which has been reviewed and carefully considered. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the remarks to follow are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 1-4, 6-12, 14-19, 21-26 and 28-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,798,461 (Banta). Further, claims 5, 13, 20 and 27 are rejected under §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Banta in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,938,612 (Kline). It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-29 are patentable over Banta and Kline for at least the following reasons.

Banta is directed to a methods and apparatus for ultrasound imaging using combined scan patterns. The combined or composite scan pattern includes a linear scan pattern and a sector scan pattern. As specifically recited throughout Banta, such as on column 1, lines 54-65 and column 2, lines 32-35, the sector scan pattern includes energy along sector lines which originate at a

common apex, while the linear scan pattern includes energy along multiple parallel lines which originate at different points. Thus, Banta combines patterns having energy along a both a common apex and different points.

It is respectfully submitted that Banta does not teach or suggest the present invention as recited in independent claim 1, and similarly recited in independent claims 8, 16 and 23 which, amongst other patentable elements, recites (illustrative emphasis provided):

a beam controller coupled to said two-dimensional array, said beam controller capable of driving the at least two active acoustic elements to produce said acoustic pulses originating from the two active acoustic elements for impinging an acoustic target to generate the echo signals, and having associated circuitry capable of controlling directional movement of said acoustic pulses by tractor treading.

It is respectfully submitted that Banta does not teach or suggest a beam controller capable of driving two active acoustic elements to produce said acoustic pulses originating from the two active acoustic elements, and having associated circuitry capable of controlling directional movement of the acoustic pulses by tractor treading. Rather, merely disclosed steering a composite

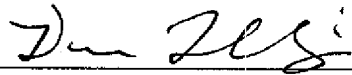
signal that includes pulses that originate from a common apex and from different points. Controlling directional movement of pulses by tractor treading from two elements is nowhere disclosed or suggested in Banta, which merely discloses pulse steering.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1, 8, 16 and 23 is allowable, and allowance thereof is respectfully requested. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2-7, 9-15, 17-22 and 24-29 should also be allowed at least based on their dependence from amended independent claims 1, 8, 16 and 23.

In addition, Applicant denies any statement, position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the presented remarks. However, the Applicants reserves the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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